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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/505,408	10/16/2006	Norikazu Sato		8799
Norikazu Sato 2-46-8, Unoki, Ootaku Tokyo, 146-0091 JAPAN				
7590 04/22/2009			EXAMINER CHAN, KO HUNG	
			ART UNIT 3632	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 04/22/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/505,408

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Examiner

Korie H. Chan

Art Unit

3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/26/2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/26/2009 has been entered.

Status of the claims are as follows: Claims 1 and 3 are pending. Claims 2 and 4-9 have been previously been cancelled by applicant. Applicant is reminded to list status of all claims in all future amendments including those that have been cancelled.

DETAILED ACTION

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

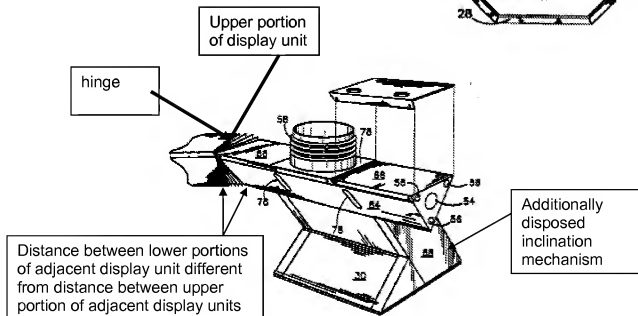
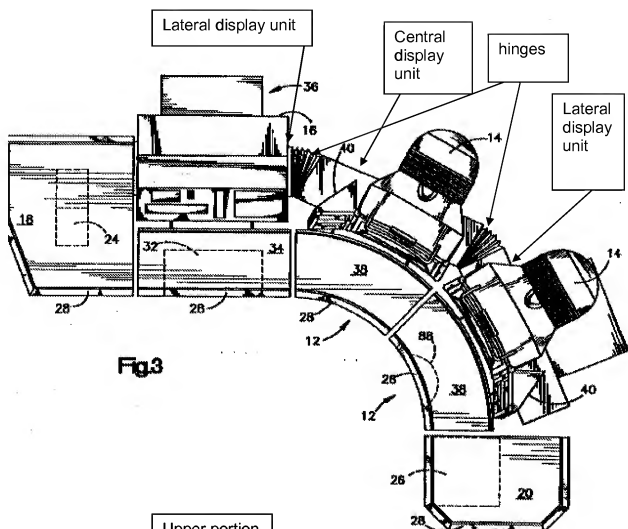
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1, last paragraph, lines 2-3, applicant inferentially claims the hinge member has "a leaf" and "a vertical king-pin". Further claim 1, "different from one at a lower side portion" is vague and indefinite as it is not clear as to one of what element.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 and 3 as best understood are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fowler et al (US patent no. 6,302,612) in view of Bonar (US patent no. 4,233,708). Fowler discloses a multi-display device, wherein a plurality of basic displays or basic units are horizontally arranged, a central basic display or central basic unit (131) is supported and held in an inclined state by an additionally disposed inclination mechanism (the ball underneath central screen 131 connected to the keyboard), lateral basic displays or lateral basic units (148) are connected to the central basic display or central basic unit (131) respectively by hinge members (ball and socket joint 147) so that a distance between the adjacent basic displays or basic units at an upper side portion of the basic display or basic unit is different from one at a lower side portion (the universal joint 147 of Fowler permits such distance to be different). However, Fowler does not disclose the connection using the hinge member having a shaft and an upper side connection portion and a lower side connection portion are different from each other and are integrated in one hinge. Such hinge connection is old and well-known. Bonar teaches such connection using the hinge member having a shaft (23, 31, figure 4) and an upper side connection portion (11) and a lower side connection portion (9) are different from each other and are integrated in one hinge. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modify the hinge of Fowler with the hinge of the type shown by Bonar. Such modification would have involved a mere substitution of one well-known type of hinge for another which is well within the ambit of one of ordinary skilled in the art.

Claims 1 and 3, as best understood are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maguire, Jr. (US patent no. 5,416,666) in view of Bonar (US patent no. 4,233,708). Maguire discloses a multi-display device having all the claimed features of applicant's invention as illustrated below. However, Maguire does not disclose the connection using the hinge member having a shaft and an upper side connection portion and a lower side connection portion are different from each other and are integrated in one hinge. Such hinge connection is old and well-known. Bonar teaches such connection using the hinge member having a king-pin (23, 31, figure 4) and an upper side connection portion (11) and a lower side connection portion (9) are different from each other and are integrated in one hinge. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modify the hinge of Maguire with the hinge of the type shown by Bonar. Such modification would have involved a mere substitution of one well-known type of hinge for another which is well within the ambit of one or ordinary skilled in the art.



Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/26/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's argues that Fowler or Maguire, Jr. does not a king-pin free from the displays or basic units. Applicant's claim language does not a king-pin with upper and lower leaves. Bonar does show his hinge members (11 and 17) each have pins (23, 31, figure 4) with different distances from the connection (34, 35) on the leaves (11 and 17).

The following claim 1 (amended) is drafted by the examiner and considered to distinguish patentably over the art of record in this application, is presented to applicant for consideration:

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-display device, wherein a plurality of basic displays or basic units are horizontally arranged, a central basic display or central basic unit is supported and held in an inclined state by an inclination mechanism, lateral basic displays or lateral basic units are connected to and supported on the central basic display or central basic unit respectively by hinge members so that a distance between upper portions of adjacent central and lateral basic displays or basic units is different from a distance between lower portions of the adjacent central and lateral basic displays or basic units, each of the hinge members includes a vertical king-pin having a plurality of leaves at an upper side portion thereof for connection to said upper portions of adjacent central and lateral basic displays or basic units and a plurality of leaves at a lower side portion of thereof for connection to said lower portions of adjacent central and lateral basic displays or basic units; and wherein a distance between [a] said

Art Unit: 3632

connection position of a respective one of said leaf of the hinge member to the basic display or basic unit and a center of [a] said vertical king-pin [of the hinge member] at [an] said upper side portion of the hinge member is different from [one] a distance between said connection position of a respective one of said leaf of the hinge member to the basic display or basic unit and a center of said vertical king-pin at [a] said lower side portion thereof, and the king-pin is free and spaced from the basic displays or basic units.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Korie H. Chan whose telephone number is 571-272-6816. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. Allen Shriver can be reached on (571)272-6698. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3632

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Korie H. Chan/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3632

khc
April 21, 2009